

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claims 79-82 are allowed and that claims 15 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 4-15, 18-20, 22-27, 47-78 and 83-91 have been cancelled without prejudice. Subject matter of the cancelled claims is being pursued in a continuation application filed on the instant date.

Claims 1, 4-9, 18-20, 22-26 and 47-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Jagannathan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,136,498).

Claims 1, 4-14, 18-20, 22-26 and 47-78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over (U.S. Patent 6,136,498).

For the sake of brevity, the two rejections are addressed in combination.

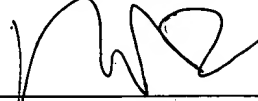
While Applicants fully disagree with these rejections, including for reasons set forth in Applicants' prior response, it is also submitted that the rejections are obviated by the amendments made herein. The rejected claims have been cancelled herein without prejudice and are now pending in a continuation application.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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